

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18529 241725Z

11
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1418
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18529

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: SHIBAYEV APPOINTED TRADE UNION CHIEF

1. DURING NOV 23 PLENUM OF THE ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (AUCCTU), SARATOV OBKOM FIRST SECRETARY ALEKSEY I. SHIBAYEV WAS "UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED" CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER OF THE AUCCTU PRESIDUM.
2. EVENING TV NEWS COVERAGE OF THE MEETING CARRIED ABOUT FOUR MINUTES OF SHIBAYEV'S "NOMINATIONS SPEECH," DELIVERED BY KIRILENKO, IN WHICH KIRILENKO NOTED THAT SHIBAYEV'S NAME HAD BEEN "RECOMMENDED" BY THE CPSU POLITBURO. (KIRILENKO DID NOT MENTION THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN THIS CONNECTION.)
3. NEITHER OUR FILES, NOR THOSE OF OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES HERE, CONTAIN INFORMATION ON SHIBAYEV WHICH SHEDS LIGHT ON THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS APPOINTMENT. ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION AT HAND, HE HAS NO APPARENT CAREER TIES WITH INDIVIDUALS IN THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S SENDING US WHAT-EVER BIOGRAPHIC DATA IS AVAILABLE ON HIM-- OTHER THAN THAT CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCE WORK "DEPUTATY".

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18529 241725Z

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